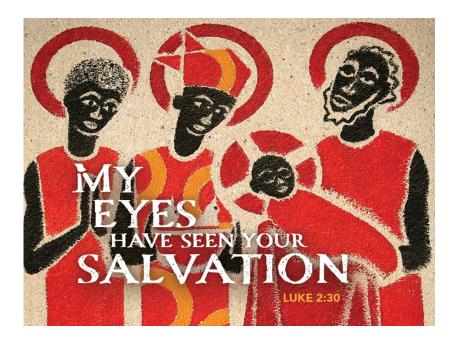
# December 31, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas 10:00 am





# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life. We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

#### WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please sign the card in the pew rack and place in the offering plate with your offering before Holy Communion.
- + The service is printed in this bulletin. Some hymns are located in the red hymn book.
- + Hearing enhancement receivers, large print bulletins are available. Feel free to ask an usher for assistance.
- Our expectation is that children will be in worship. We understand, though, that there are times when your wiggly ones need a distraction. There is a "Pray Space" under the stairs in the inner narthex with soft toys and books. We also have a nursery with a caregiver available at both worship services. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- + If you would like to have a digital copy of the bulletin, go to our website and download the PDF. www.flcbothell.org
- + Public Wi-Fi: FLC Wireless—Password: MartyLuther

# Serving Us In Worship Today

Presiding/ Preaching	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg	Children's Message	Roger Steinke
Piano	June Condra		
Greeter	Stephanie Almeida	Acolyte	
Ushers	Ken Smith	Communion Assistants	Susan Berg Donna Hillard
Sound Tech	Andrew Phelps	Camera Tech	Katie Pyne
Lector	Susan Berg	Pew Angel	Marcus Hodges

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

#### Pastor

Rev. Tor Kristian Berg tberg@flcbothell.org

#### Director of REACH Ministries Roger Steinke rsteinke@flcbothell.org

Director of Music (Organist/Choir Dir.) Lucy Kay Osborne lkosborne@flcbothell.org

Office Manager Kristin Smith ksmith@flcbothell.org Preschool Director Beth Bowers flcbeth@gmail.com

# December 31, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE: Sheep May Safely Graze (J.S. Bach)

#### WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: Once in Royal David's City (ELW 269)



#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)





#### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST READING: Luke 1:46-56

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

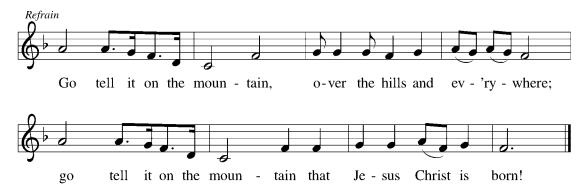
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Word of God,

#### word of life.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)





1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night. shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth The 3 Down in lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born: а



#### GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

2

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

 $^{25}$ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon: this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.<sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eves have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Word of God. Word of life.

#### CHILDRENS MESSAGE

#### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272)

1 Lo. how rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der hath а stem 2 Ι - sai - ah had fore - told it. the rose Ι have in This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der 3 with sweet-ness fills the Sav - ior. child of Mar - v. who felt hu -4 0 our man sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com ing as with Mar - y bē hold mind; we it, the dis with air. pels glo - rious splen dor the Sav - ior. 0 king of who woe; glo ry, seers of old have sung, flow'r so bright, it came, а a vir - gin moth - er kind. То show God's love а right, she ev - 'ry - where. dark-ness True man, vet ver - v God. from dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to mid the cold of win - ter. when half - spent night. was the half - spent bore to us Sav - ior. when was the night. а sin and death he saves and light-ens ev -'ry load. us in - to end the bright courts of heav - en and less day.

NICENE CREED We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light. true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

For whom do the people pray?

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

#### Amen.

#### **PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERTORY:** What Child is This (Traditional)

#### OFFERING: Glory to God (ACS 911) (Sing 3 times)



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

**COMMUNION:** We will receive the body of Christ as bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. If you desire a gluten-free option that is available. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

WHO MAY COMMUNE? All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.

**DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION:** Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a pew card.

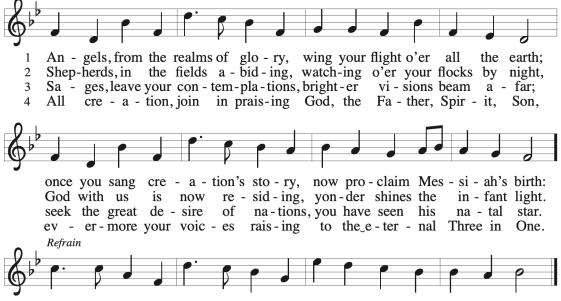
#### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONGS: Holy Child Within the Manger (WOV 638)



Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

#### SENDING SONG: Cold December Flies Away (ELW 299)



#### DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Auld Lang Syne Lloyd Condra, Bagpipes

#### **INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK!**

#### Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

Worship 10:00 am

#### Monday, January 1

Happy New Year! **Church Office Closed** 

#### Tuesday, January 2

9:00 am	4 & 5 Year Old Preschool	
9:15 am	Preschool Chapel	
9:30 am	Lectionary	
12:00 pm	Staff Meeting	
3:30 pm	Weekly News Submissions Deadline	
6:00 pm	Property Committee	
7:00 pm	IT/Communications Meeting	

Wednesday, January 39:00 am4 & 5 Year old Preschool

#### Thursday, January 4

9:00 am	FLC Quilters
	3 & 5 Year Old Preschool
9:15 am	Preschool Chapel
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir

#### Friday, January 5

Church Office Closed 9:00 am 3 year old Preschool

#### Saturday, January 6

9:00 am Altar Guild Garden Guild

#### Sunday, January 7 Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 am	Worship w/Holy Communion
10:45 am	Sunday School for All Ages
	Coffee with Council
4:00 pm	Journey Class

Psalm 1	<u>January 7, 2024 B</u> Mark 1:1-20	Baptism of Our Lord Beginning of the Good News
Decemb		ancial Report
December 17, 2023	er 17, 2023 Attendanc General Offerings:	
Decemb December 24, 202		ce in Person: 442 Zoom: 47 rings: \$9,405 Capital Improvement: \$392 Needed Each Week: \$10,510

#### In Our Prayers

# Prayers of sympathy for Debbie & Darryl Lageson and family in the death of their niece, Jenny on December 24.

We pray for Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

#### Those living with cancer:

Juanita (Bonnie Ahlstedt's sister-in-law), Del Benson (member), Mark (Dick Boyce's son), Lisa (Steve Coble's sister), Karen (Scott Eiler's sister), Dan (Paula Glandon's brother-in-law), Edith Holbrook (member), Tracee (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), Sharlene Hauge (FLC Quilter), Jessica Hockstedler (member), Dana (Barb & Tim Thieme's friend), Wayne (Dave Shohren's friend), Jana (Renee & Mike Markert's friend), Tim (Dave Shogren's friend), Richard (Ruth Neitzel's brother), Ted (Sue Toyoda's friend), Kip (Paul Desilet's uncle), Jim (Hendricks' family friend), Joanne (Carolyn Becker's sister-in-law), Diane Mackey (Del Benson's friend), Chris & family (Dan & Sandy Hendricks' friends), Karen (Nora Strothman's cousin).

#### Those who are ill, have an injury or who are recovering from surgery:

Tom Agnew (member), Alice (Del Benson's friend), Dale (Roger Steinke's friend), Carolyn Becker (member), Dick Boyce (member), Doug (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), Susan (Bob Berg's cousin), John (Linda Chapman's brother-in-law), Judy (Linda Chapman's friend), Sarah (Susan & Ross Cook's daughter), Richard (Susan & Ross Cook's brother), Randy (Chris Martin's friend), Leanne (Krista Daniels' sister), Elizabeth (Jane King's friend), Nancy Davis (member), Carol Jo (Joan and Carl Christian's granddaughter), Audrey Fisher (member), Tracy (Rob & Rene Baker's friend), John Godek (member). Steve (Del Benson's friend), Alexa & Ellie (Tracy Harrison's children), Beau & Gray (Tracy Harrison's grandsons), Cindy (Tracy Harrison's friend), Les & Lois (Tracy Harrison's parents),Karen (Tracy Harrison's sister), Sarah (Hatlen family niece & cousin), Marilyn

Iverson (member), Mary (Melanie Veazey's mother), Marlo (Leona Keltner's friend), Amy (Nancy McGee's friend), Axton (Vicki & Kevin Kastning's grandson), Kathy Koneiczka (member), Richard Konieczka (Kathy Konieczka's husband), Albert (Chris Martin's friend), Shirley (Haley Neff-LaFord's grandmother), Andy (Vickie Shanks' friend), Donnabel (Derrick StaRosa's sister), Hildur
O'Connor (member), Ron (Beth Phelps' brother), Sarah (Susan & Ross Cook's daughter), Sandy Sailand (member), Jim (Tracy Harrison's friend), Mona Shogren (member), Harriett (Roger Steinke's friend), Karen (Tracy Harrison's sister), Lois (Tracy Harrison's mother), Walt
Stoll (member), Christopher (Karen & Ray Thomas' friend), Sue (Aileen Miller's daughter), Roger Wolter (member).

Special Prayers: Rita and Dennis (Thomas family friends) , Lynn and Alex (Mark Hatlen's friends)

#### Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), Bonnie Ahlstedt (member), Jeanette Backstrom (member), Sherrill & Larry Baker (members), Trudy Eichelsdoerfer (member), Marge Gonyea (member), Marlys Helgeland (member), Jane King (member), Greta & Larry Nelson (members), Lawrence (Leon Romaniuk's father), Emma (Dave Shogren's mother), Jacquie Stoll (member), Sigrid (Carsten Thode's mother).

#### Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: Mason Land (Debbie & Darryl Lageson's nephew), Jake Peoples (Andrea & Eric Peoples' son) and Erin Siebert (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

NAVY: Christopher Whipple (Carolyn Whipple's son)

We are honored to be able to pray for your family members in need. Our policy is to publish





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# **SERMON NOTES**

What caught my attention:

What did I hear that I am eager to share with another person?

I think the title of the sermon should be:

